from the National Sample Survey Organization. The BPL Census carried out by the Ministry of Rural Development identifies the BPL households. For the purpose of identification of BPL families in the rural areas, a common methodology is used for all the States. For the Tenth Five Year Plan, the BPL Census 2002 has been conducted on the basis of the methodology of 'Score Based Ranking' of the rural households for which 13 socioeconomic parameters have been used indicating the relative status of deprivation.

Regional trade agreement

4665. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether the Planning Commission is working towards a regional trade agreeement with China on the lines it entered with ASEAN;

if so, whether such agreement would further increase the existing problem of cheap Chinese goods flooding our markets;

in what manner Government propose to overcome the imminent threat; and

if not, the manner in which the trade agreement would benefit both the nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Regional Trade Agreements are formulated by the Ministry of Commerce. The Planning Commission has not proposed any such agreement.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Concentration of poor people in India

4666. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that world's larget poor people are concentrated in India; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to appoint a Poverty Commission at par with Administrative Reforms Commission so that poverty could be fought tooth and nail and poverty ratio could be less than 10 per cent of the Indian population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years using the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of poor. The latest estimates on number of poor are available for the year 2004-05, estimated from NSS 61st around consumer expenditure data. The number of poor in 2004-05 is estimated as 301.7 million using URP consumption distribution (Uniform Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for all the items are collected from 30-days recall period) and 238.5 million using MRP consumption distribution (Mixed Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for five non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses are collected from 365 day recall period and the consumption data for the remaining items are collected from 30-days recall period).

The estimates of poverty in other country are not comparable with that of India due to difference in methodology adopted and data used.

(b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at the moment.

Benefits of growth to citizens

4667. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether Government are aware that the benefits of growth are not reaching all the citizens;

whether according to Report of National Sample Survey Organization, 25 crore citizens in the country subsist at Rs. 12 per day only;

if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for increasing sufficient avenues of employment for citizens both in rural and urban areas, State-wise; and